

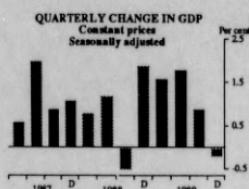
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 29 March 1990

The week in statistics ...

- Economy flat in December quarter 2
- Road traffic accidents at record low 3
- Established house prices static 4
- Population growth slows 4
- Earnings profile of employees 5
- All the week's releases 6
- Calendar of key releases up to 10 April 7
- The latest ...
 - key State indicators 7
 - key national indicators 8

Economy flat in December quarter



Constant price gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.2 per cent in the December quarter 1989 but remained 4.2 per cent higher than in the same quarter one year earlier.

Major features of the December quarter accounts are contracting capital expenditure over the past two quarters, the first decline in total domestic demand for three years, a rise in exports and a fall in imports, and a decline in company profits after two years of strong growth.

Private final consumption expenditure increased by 0.6 per cent in the December quarter to be 4.4 per cent higher than in the same quarter last year.

Private gross fixed capital expenditure declined by 4.0 per cent in the December quarter following a similar fall (3.5%) in the September quarter. Public capital expenditure also declined in the December quarter, falling by 1.1 per cent.

Private non-farm stocks increased by only \$23 million in the December quarter following five quarters in which there were significant increases. However, public marketing authority stocks rose strongly in the December quarter by \$324 million.

Exports of goods and services increased by 3.7 per cent while imports declined by 1.8 per cent. Consequently, net exports, while still negative, improved to make a significant positive contribution to quarterly growth in GDP for the first time since December 1986.

MAIN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AGGREGATES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1989
Seasonally adjusted estimates at average 1984-85 prices
Percentage change

| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Final consumption expenditure— | | |
| Private | 0.6 | 4.4 |
| Government | 2.1 | 8.0 |
| Gross fixed capital expenditure | -3.4 | -0.6 |
| Gross national expenditure | -1.2 | 4.5 |
| Exports of goods and services | 3.7 | 7.7 |
| Imports of goods and services | -1.8 | 9.0 |
| Gross domestic product | -0.2 | 4.2 |
| Gross farm product | 2.9 | 8.7 |
| Gross non-farm product | -0.4 | 4.0 |

As reported last week in the *Statistics Weekly* article on the balance of payments, Australia's terms of trade improved marginally (0.6%) in the December quarter following declines of 0.2 per cent and 2.2 per cent in the June and September quarters respectively.

The imports to sales ratio fell to 0.125 from its peak of 0.130 in June quarter 1989 but remains at an historically high level. The stocks to sales ratio was 0.56 in the December quarter, having remained at about that level throughout 1988 and 1989.

In current price seasonally adjusted terms, wages, salaries and supplements increased by 2.4 per cent while the gross operating surplus of private corporate trading enterprises fell by 0.7 per cent.

(Unless otherwise indicated the comments and figures in this article are based on seasonally adjusted constant price estimates.)

For further information, order the publication Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure (5206.0), or contact Charles Aspen on (06) 252 6711.

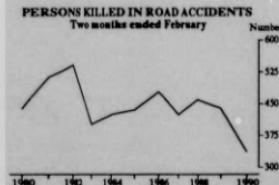
Road traffic accidents at record low

The number of fatal road accidents (145) and the number of persons killed in them (164) in February were the lowest since publication of the monthly figures commenced in 1970.

The February figures easily bettered the record low set in the previous month, yielding an extraordinarily low start for the national road toll in calendar year 1990.

All States and the Australian Capital Territory contributed to this record low figure. The number of people killed in each State and Territory in the two months ended February 1990 and the percentage change on the same period in 1989 are shown in the table below.

PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Two months ended February



PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Two months ended February 1990

| | Number of fatalities | Percentage change from corresponding two months in 1989 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| New South Wales | 102 | - 26 |
| Victoria | 92 | - 35 |
| Queensland | 53 | - 2 |
| South Australia | 32 | - 20 |
| Western Australia | 29 | - 22 |
| Tasmania | 17 | - 19 |
| Northern Territory | 10 | 150 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 2 | - 50 |
| Australia | 337 | - 23 |

For further information, order the publication Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0), or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5443.

Established house prices static



Prices of established houses rose by 0.4 per cent in the December quarter. This was the second lowest quarterly increase since the start of this series in September 1986, the lowest being for the previous quarter, September 1989, when prices stayed constant.

Prices of established houses fell in Sydney (2.4%) and Darwin (2.3%). They increased in all other cities, ranging from 1.2 per cent in Melbourne to 4.1 per cent in Adelaide.

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1989

Percentage change

| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Sydney | -2.4 | 5.8 |
| Melbourne | 1.2 | 12.8 |
| Brisbane | 2.8 | 17.1 |
| Adelaide | 4.1 | 9.8 |
| Perth | 3.4 | 20.6 |
| Hobart | 2.8 | 8.4 |
| Darwin | -2.3 | -0.4 |
| Canberra | 3.1 | 8.3 |
| Weighted average of eight capital cities | 0.4 | 10.6 |

For further information, order the publication House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities (6416.0), or contact Maree Roy on (06) 252 6251.

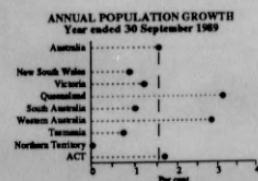
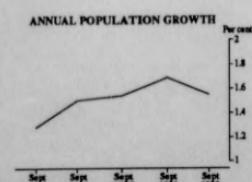
Population growth slows

The resident population in Australia at 30 September 1989 is estimated at 16,861,200, an increase of 257,100 over the year since September 1988.

The annual growth rate to September 1989 (1.55%) is lower than for the previous twelve months (1.69%) but, as is shown by the chart, higher than the annual rates in September of the previous three years.

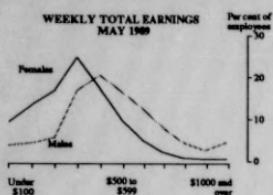
During the September quarter 1989, the population grew by 54,500, of which 53.7 per cent was due to net gain from overseas migration, while natural increase comprised 46.3 per cent. As in the previous two quarters, the level of net gain from overseas migration was lower than the level recorded for the corresponding quarter of 1988. For the September quarter 1989, net overseas migration (29,300) was 22 per cent lower than the level observed for the September quarter 1988.

For the States, population growth for the twelve months ended September 1989 was highest in Queensland (3.15%) and Western Australia (2.86%) and lowest in the Northern Territory (0.06%), Tasmania (0.76%) and New South Wales (0.89%). The high growth rate in Queensland and the low growth rate in New South Wales is caused by the record net movement of 32,200 from New South Wales to Queensland during the year ending September 1989.



Earnings profile of employees

The latest comprehensive annual survey of employee earnings and hours shows that females remain heavily under-represented in Australia's higher-paid jobs.



The diagram at left reflects the concentration of females in lower paid industries and occupations. Another factor affecting this distribution of income is the significantly lower average overtime earnings by females.

Even those women who have joined the managerial and professional ranks still share the gender imbalance in average pay rates common to all broad occupation categories, as the table shows.

AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL EARNINGS, MAY 1989
Full-time adult employees
Dollars

| Occupation | Males | Females | Persons |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Managers and administrators | 765 | 567 | 729 |
| Professionals | 712 | 591 | 664 |
| Para-professionals | 634 | 558 | 609 |
| Tradespersons | 529 | 379 | 519 |
| Clerks | 526 | 431 | 465 |
| Salespersons etc. | 527 | 404 | 473 |
| Plant and machine operators | 552 | 358 | 523 |
| Labourers | 468 | 374 | 443 |
| All occupations | 581 | 460 | 542 |

Full details of these and many other aspects of the earnings profile of employees can be found in the recently released ABS publication *Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Preliminary, May 1989*.

The publication presents earnings and hours data classified by a number of variables, including occupation, industry, State and sector. For example, information is available on specific detailed occupations within the broad categories shown in the table above.

The composition of earnings is broken down into ordinary time and overtime, while ordinary time earnings are further dissected into award or agreed rates, payment by measured result, and over-award and other pay.

For further information about statistics available from this survey, order the publications *Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Preliminary (6305.0)* and *Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (6306.0)*, or contact Jane Maher on (06) 252 5325.

All the week's releases: 21 to 27 March

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
(06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 322 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Brian Thorp
 Editor
Statistics Weekly
 (06) 252 6917

Statistics Weekly
29 March 1990

General

Statistics Weekly, 22 March 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, WA, March 1990 (1307.5; \$5.00)

Demography

Australian Demographic Statistics, September Qtr 1989 (3101.0; \$10.00)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (3402.0; \$11.50)
Age and Sex Distribution of the Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas, NSW, 1988 (3209.1; \$11.50)
Estimated Residential Population in Statistical Local Areas, Vic., June 1988, Preliminary (3203.2; \$8.00)
Estimated Resident Population in Statistical Local Areas, SA, June 1989, Preliminary, (3201.4; \$6.00)

Social statistics

Women in Western Australia, June 1986 (4108.5; \$25.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, December Qtr 1989 (5206.0; \$16.50)
Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, December Qtr 1989 (5228.0; \$75.00)
Exports and Imports, Aust.: Trade with Selected Countries and Major Country Groups, December Qtr 1989 (5422.0; \$16.25)
Exports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, December 1989 (5432.0; \$8.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Industrial Disputes, Aust., December 1989 (6321.0; \$5.50)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., February 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., January 1990 (6415.0; \$5.00)

Agriculture

Crops and Pastures, Vic., 1988-89 (7321.2; \$15.00)
Fruit, SA, 1988-89 (7322.4; \$12.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, Aust., December 1989 (8357.0; \$5.50)
Production of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, Aust., December 1989 (8360.0; \$8.50)
Production of Building Materials and Fittings, Aust., December 1989 (8361.0; \$5.50)
Production of Transport Equipment, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (8363.0; \$3.50)
Production of Metal Products, Aust., December 1989 (8367.0; \$4.50)
Production of Energy Products, Aust., December 1989 (8368.0; \$3.50)
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, September Qtr 1989 Corrigendum (8635.1; free)
Tourist Accommodation, Qld, December Qtr 1989 (8635.3; \$13.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., December 1989 (9303.0; \$9.00)
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Tas., December Qtr 1989 (9405.6; \$4.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 10 April 1990

March

- [28] Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, December Qtr 1989 (5222.0; \$8.00)
Production Statistics, Australia, February 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
- [29] Export Price Index, Australia, January 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., February 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- [30] Balance of Payments, Aust., February 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., January 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)

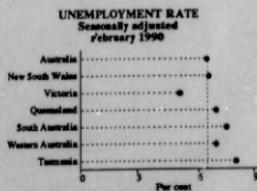
April

- [2] Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., February 1990 (6354.0; \$10.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, January 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Building Approvals, Aust., February 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- [3] Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, November 1989 (6302.0; \$8.50)
Import Price Index, Australia, December Qtr, 1989 (6414.0; \$5.00)
- [4] Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, January 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

27 March 1990



Statistics Weekly
29 March 1990

| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| — Percentage change from same period previous year — | | | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 89)* | 15.9 | 24.8 | 15.2 | 0.0 | 45.4 | -26.7 | n.a. | n.a. | 20.0 |
| Retail turnover (Jan. 90) (trend estimate) | 8.2 | 7.9 | 10.1 | 4.7 | 8.0 | 6.9 | n.a. | 7.0 | 8.0 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (Jan. 90)* | 32.2 | -3.3 | 23.3 | 21.8 | 13.9 | n.a. | -5.7 | 3.9 | 18.4 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals (Jan. 90) | -27.9 | -26.4 | -26.9 | -9.6 | -22.8 | 19.72 | 66.7 | 16.2 | -23.9 |
| Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr) | 20.5 | 25.8 | 28.1 | 30.9 | 36.5 | 18.2 | 1.8 | 6.4 | 24.8 |
| Employed persons (Feb. 90)* | 1.8 | 3.9 | 5.4 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 7.0 | -2.6 | 6.2 | 3.2 |
| Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 89) | 7.4 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.8 |
| Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 89) | 10.6 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 7.6 | 5.8 | 6.7 | 4.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 |
| Population (Sept. 89) | 0.9 | 1.2 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89) | -8.5 | 19.0 | -24.5 | 13.8 | 4.5 | -6.6 | 2.1 | -6.7 | -7.9 |

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

The latest ...

Key national indicators – consolidated to 27 March 1990

| | | Period | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year |
| National production | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product | — current prices | \$m | Dec. qtr 89 | 98,703 | 91,531 | 0.9 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 69,796 | 64,190 | -0.2 |
| New capital expenditure | — current prices | \$m | Dec. qtr 89 | 7,826 | 7,173 | -2.3 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 5,915 | 5,436 | -4.1 |
| Expected new capital expenditure | | " | Six months to June 90 | 15,245 | n.a. | 8.3 |
| Retail turnover | — current prices | " | Jan. 90 | 6682 | 6970 | 0.6 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | Dec. qtr 89 | 16,697 | 14,831 | 3.7 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (e) | no. | " | Jan. 90 | 44,212 | 53,591 | 8.6 |
| Dwelling unit approvals | no. | " | Jan. 90 | 9,540 | 11,379 | 3.1 |
| Value of all building approvals | \$m | " | | 2,500 | 2,838 | 56.8 |
| Value of total building work done | | " | Sept. qtr 89 | 7,973 | 7,583 | -1.8 |
| — current prices | | | | 5,257 | 4,999 | -3.9 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 37,329 | 35,539 | 3.1 |
| Manufacturers' sales | " | Dec. qtr 89 | | | n.a. | 9.9 |
| Expected manufacturers' sales | " | Six months to June 90 | | 71,716 | n.a. | 9.7 |
| Labour | | | | | | |
| Employed persons | '000 | Feb. 90 | 7,809.1 | 7,855.3 | -0.1 | 3.2 |
| Unemployment rate † | % | " | 7.1 | 6.5 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Participation rate † | " | " | 63.8 | 63.7 | 0.1 | 0.7 |
| Job vacancies | '000 | Nov. 89 | 62.7 | 66.0 | -0.6 | -6.0 |
| Average weekly overtime per employee | hours | " | 1.6 | 1.5 | -3.0 | 7.7 |
| Prices, profits and wages | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | 1980-81 = 100.0 | Dec. qtr 89 | 200.7 | n.a. | 1.9 | 7.8 |
| Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries | 1984-85 = 100.0 | Dec. 89 | 118.2 | n.a. | 0.2 | 9.1 |
| Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry | 1968-69 = 100.0 | Dec. 89 | 557.7 | n.a. | 0.2 | 7.0 |
| Company profits before income tax | \$m | Dec. qtr 89 | 5,575 | 4,523 | -1.0 | 15.0 |
| Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) | \$ | November 89 | 516.80 | n.a. | 1.7 | 6.6 |
| Interest rates (b) (monthly average) | | | | | | |
| 90-day bank bills † | % per annum | Feb. 90 | 16.25 | n.a. | -0.4 | -0.7 |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | " | " | 13.30 | n.a. | 0.5 | -0.4 |
| Balance of payments | | | | | | |
| Exports of merchandise | \$m | Jan. 90 | 3,941 | 3,909 | -3.2 | 7.7 |
| Imports of merchandise | " | " | 4,605 | 4,615 | -15.2 | 16.7 |
| Balance on merchandise trade (c) | " | " | -664 | -706 | n.a. | -116.6 |
| Balance of goods and services (c) | " | " | -1,003 | -1,068 | -152.5 | -80.7 |
| Balance on current account (c) | " | " | -1,965 | -1,953 | -45.2 | -36.8 |
| Terms of trade (d) | 1984-85 = 100.0 | Dec. qtr 89 | n.a. | 108.4 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Foreign investment | | | | | | |
| Net foreign debts | \$m | 31 Dec. 89 | 118,391 | n.a. | 6.1 | 19.2 |
| Net foreign liabilities | " | " | 158,848 | n.a. | 5.0 | 19.5 |
| Exchange rates (monthly average) | | | | | | |
| \$US per \$A | per \$A | Jan. 90 | 0.7822 | n.a. | -0.5 | -10.1 |
| Trade weighted index | May 1970 = 100.0 | " | 60.4 | n.a. | -0.5 | -6.6 |
| Other indicators | | | | | | |
| Population (resident at end of qtr) | million | Sept. 89 | 16.9 | n.a. | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Overseas visitors | '000 | Dec. 89 | 247 | 168 | -0.1 | -0.2 |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Thursday, 29 March 1990. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

